

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/006,568

Attorney Docket No. Q67594

REMARKS

Claims 12 and 13 are herein added. Claims 1 – 7 were previously pending, with claim 8 withdrawn and claims 9 – 11 cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1 – 7 and 12 – 13 are presently under consideration.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the rejection of claims 1, 5, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and the rejection of claims 2 – 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, in view of US 6,270,020 to Thompson.

I. Rejection of Claims 1 – 7 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in View of US 5,312,040 to Woodward

This rejection is respectfully traversed as follows.

Applicant's independent claims 1, 5 and 6 each set forth a controller that opens a switching valve so as to supply a pressurized gas to an injection nozzle when an injection of pressurized liquid from said injection nozzle is detected by said detecting means. At least these features are absent in the Woodward device.

Distinctly different from Applicant's claimed device, Woodward's device cannot spray a mixture of pressurized gas and pressurized liquid with the granular material. *See* Col. 5, lines 32 - 35. Indeed, Woodward's outlet 24 of the 3-way valve 14 transmits either abrasive material or compressed gas, but not both. Instead, Woodward injects a mixture flow of the pressurized liquid and the abrasive material when the trigger is compressed. *See* Col. 6, lined 53 – 62.

Indeed, Woodward utilized pressurized gas only to remove blockages at the injection nozzle, after the mixture flow is injected. *See* Col. 7, lines 12 to 24. Woodward utilizes the connecting rod 26 to supply the pressurized gas 60 to injection nozzle 118 so as to remove the abrasive materials from the injection nozzle, when the trigger is not compressed. Then, the

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pressurized liquid is injected from the nozzle dump 120 (*see also* Col. 7, lines 1 – 8). Therefore, the Woodward reference is at least deficient for failing to teach or suggest injection of a mixture of the pressurized gas and the pressurized liquid and is accordingly unrelated to the claimed features of the instant invention.

The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 5 and 6 because Woodward is deficient. Further, Applicant submits that claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 12 and 13 are allowable at least because such claims depend from one of independent claims 1, 5 and 6.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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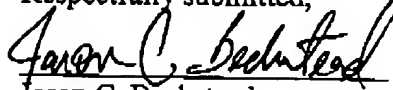
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CUSTOMER NUMBER


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Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office this 15th day of February, 2005.


Mariam Tam